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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Satoshi HOSHINO

Appln. No. 09/590,686

Group Art Unit: 2766

2132

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: June 09, 2000

For: ELECTRONIC DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) (substitute for PTO Form 1449) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 10-232967, published September 2, 1998.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 10-143556, published May 29, 1998.

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3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 10-13403, published January 16, 1998.
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 60-167048, published August 30, 1985.
5. K. Nakamura et al., "Security Technologies for ETC", NEC Reports, NEC Creative, Ltd., Vol. 50, No. 7, (July 25, 1997), pp. 156-161.
6. K. Kouro, "Implementation of an Electronic File Encryptions System/Signature System", NTT Engineering Journal, Telecommunications Association, Ltd., Vol. 10, No. 11, (November 1, 1998), pp. 37-38.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.


In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated February 19, 2002, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

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waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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- A. The storage of data including information pertaining to a transaction and including the electronic signature of the user is well known in this field of technology. (See, for example, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-232967, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-143556, and Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-13403). Encoding using a public key that encodes electronic data, and then decoding using a decoding key, is well known in this field of technology. (See, for example, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S60-167048, Katsuyo Nakamura "Security Technologies in ETC," (NEC Reports, NEC Creative, Ltd., July 25, 1997, vol. 50, no. 7, pages 156 through 161), Kenji Kouro "Implementation of an Electronic File Encryption System/Signature System" NTT Engineering Journal, (Telecommunications Association, Ltd., November 1, 1998, Vol. 10, No. 11, pages 37 to 38)). Consequently, no particular technical difficulty is seen in establishing an electronic data storage means, a key storage means, and an encoding means in the invention of the present application.

As a result, the inventions in Claims 1 through 10 could have been invented with ease by an individual in the industry based on well-known technologies and on the inventions described in Cited Examples 1 through 4, and thus, by the stipulations established in Part 2 of Article 29 of the Patent Law, said inventions are ineligible to receive patents.